

A Simple Guide to Relating To God (2 Chronicles 15:1-2)

Proposition: Every person can enjoy a healthy relationship to God be following the three simple instructions found in our text.

- I. **Be Comforted by the Lord's Attendance** (Vs. 2d)
 - A. A Promised Attendance (Vs. 2d)
 - B. A Provisional Attendance (Vs. 2d)
- II. **Be Confident in the Lord's Allowance** (Vs. 2e)
 - A. A Simple Search (Vs. 2e)
 - B. A Successful Search (Vs. 2e)
- III. **Be Cautioned of the Lord's Abandonment** (Vs. 2f)
 - A. Our Personal Abandonment (Vs. 2f)
 - B. His Punishing Abandonment (Vs. 2f)
 - C. His Permanent Abandonment (Vs. 2f)

A Simple Guide to Relating to God (II Chron 15:

1-2) Some relationships in life are very easy to navigate. For example, your relationship with your mail man. It is very steady and repetitive. The mail carrier is not offended if I don't leave a letter, I don't insist on having quality time with him. He doesn't get upset and give my mail to some one else. What about w/ our bank. They don't get upset because you are taking all the time. They don't lock the door when they see you coming. You are not overly concerned with cultivating a deep and lasting relationship w/ them. So you want to get in and get out as quick as you can, and they are not the least bit upset when you do. These are very easy relationships. But the more important the relationship is the more difficult it is to navigate. Think of a couple dating. There are times when she can't wait to see him. It seems as though she can't do without him. Then she may grow weary of him and just want to be with girlfriends or even a competing fella. The slighted boyfriend maybe angry, jealous, hurt. He may stop calling.

I. Be Comforted by the Lord's Attendence (2d)

We were at a missions conference the other day and they sung a hymn that I'd never heard before. "Who's on the Lord's side?" I may not have been able to sing that song but as I looked in the

in the Lord Jesus, I had the comfort ^{in knowing that} ~~the~~

A. A Promised Attendance (2d) - In the previous chapter, this fledgling King Asa was confronted by what could be described as a million-man army. Outnumbered 2 to 1, Asa called on the Lord - ^{Ch 14} Vs 11+12. Abraham had the kiss of the presence of God in his life. Joshua was confident in his taking Canaan land because God was with him. Timothee Gideon routed the enemy w/ the comfort that God was with him. There have been times of God's miraculous presence. But also with us in perseverance, God was w/ Joseph in Potiphar's house + Prison. The Lord was w/ David as Saul sought his life. ³ Is. 43:2; 41:10. The Lord has been w/

B. A Provisional Attendance - (2d) This kiss of the Lord's active presence, his miraculous water parting presence or his strengthening, quelling presence has a provision hanging on it a condition attached to it. "When you are with him." Amos wise saying Amos 3:3 is not only for a earthly relations but heavenly. Ch 14:2 from the get go Asa was with the Lord. Rooting out idolatry and the strange Gods. Stamping out wickedness, fornication and ungodliness. Turning his heart + people's heart to the Lord. We can walk confidently w/ the Lord into whatever ^{we're living in his prayers} where we have been.

II. Be Confident in the Lord's Allowance
2 Tim 4:2 says that a preacher is to "reprove" tell them what they did wrong. "Rebuke" tell them how bad their wrong is and "exhort" tell them how to make it right. That's what Azariah is doing in this second phrase

1) ...stop calling, stop coming by. The relationship may even be broken off for a time only to be followed by a passionate renewal. Well our relationship to God is hands down the most important relationship we have and therefore it can be the most difficult to navigate. But here in our text this Spirit filled prophet Azariah gives us a very simple one verse guide to relating to God in one simple verse. Every person can enjoy a healthy relationship to God by following the three simple instructions found in our text.

2) ...knowing that, I'm on the Lord's side! That he is with me!

3) Isaiah 43:2 When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. Isaiah 41:10 Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

4) Amos 3:3 Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

1) Jeremiah 29:13 And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

2) Jeremiah 29:14 For I will be a Father to the fatherless, and a Husband to the widow, saith the Lord.

3) Jeremiah 29:15 For I will be a Father to the fatherless, and a Husband to the widow, saith the Lord.

We all have the tendency to not to be on same page w/ the Lord

A. A Simple Search - In our fallen state "being with the Lord" walking in his ways, is at times a difficult undertaking other wise the relationship w/ God would be as regular as night and day. But we are

drawn away by lusts and desires and find ourselves away from God. How do we get back to the smile of God the kiss of His presence? Does it take a prolonged period of great sorrow or intense labor of devotion. Does it take long prayers and hours of bible study. No just turn and look for him. Isa 14:11, 15:3-4, Jeremiah 29:13 ^{Repent} ~~Not doubting~~ ^{God}

B. A Successful Search - He will be found of you. Over the years, I've played quite a bit of hide and seek with Allison + Evan + Grason. I'd try to find pretty good hiding places. I broke a book shelf and trying to hide on top of it in a closet. But when we first started and Allison was small, I wouldn't hide in such a difficult place. But behind a curtain or under a cover. And when it still was difficult for them to find me, I'd cough or sneeze or moan. They would throw back the curtain and find me. God will let you find Him. He is your father! Seek Him today!

III. Be Cautioned of the Lord's Disappointment

I remember listening as a child to Bro Orin Smith my pastor at Straight Way Baptist Church on Sand Mtn. When he would passionately preach on the iniquities of God. the carnal desires of the heart

for lost sinners, my heart would be gripped w/ fear. ①

A. Our Personal Abandonment (2x) But if ^(leave behind neglected) we forsake him. If there is any forsaking going on, it will be initiated by us. God is the epitome of faithfulness. Asa Grandfather Rehoboam son of Solomon, 12:1. His heart was turned away from the Lord. He alters to strange gods and high places and images that Asa tore down, set up by Rehoboam. Living for appetites and abandoning God. Psalms, Asa was battle weary. ②

B. His Punishing Abandonment - Azariah yields to us the repercussions of our personal abandonment of God. He will abandon us. Ch 12:5 This is the chastening hand of God, abandonment. God leaving us to reap what we have sown. Jer 12:7 I'm not speaking of eternal forsake. But temporary. Times we because of unfaithfulness find ourselves in chastening difficulty. Isaiah. Ezra 8:22 David in Ps 32:4 ③

C. His Permanent Abandonment - Heb 13:5 'Never leave thee or forsake thee' Everything's ok. I prayed a prayer year ago. I got my hell insurance. Simon - We know that God will think of Judas, Demas, Alexander, drifts away to shipwreck. 'Any one forsaking God as a pattern of life, certainly forfeits any assurance of eternal life.' If you're on the broad road, ④

IV Close - In just three phrases, Azariah sums up our relationship with the Lord. What a comfort to know that the Lord is with us. Are you w/ him? If not have confidence that you can be w/ the Lord. Seek, if you refuse be cautioned of forsaking ⑤

- 1) gripped with fear. Azariah is ending his simple guide to relating to God with a fearful reminder of the consequences of turning away from God.
- 2) ...Asa won a great victory, the potential is there that in the pride of victory, the Lord could be forsaken. Prosperity can lead us to forsake God. What of your life? Have the pleasures of life drawn you away from the Lord? Have the prosperities that you should life thankfully for, caused you to forsake God in self confidence.
- 3) Jeremiah 12:7 I have forsaken mine house, I have left mine heritage; I have given the dearly beloved of my soul into the hand of her enemies.
- 4) Ezra 8:22The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him; but his power and his wrath is against all them that forsake him.
- 5) Psalms 32:4 For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: Spurgeon - God's hand is very helpful when it uplifts, but it is awful when it presses down: better a world on the shoulder, like Atlas, than God's hand on the heart, like David.
- 6) ...God will not finally cast off his people, we believe that he will visit them with the rod til he has brought them back to him with deep contrition, but as long as they forsake him he will as far respects any display of his favor forsake them and if any who have thought themselves his people forsake him utterly they shall also be utterly forsaken."
- 7) ...road, you've got no reason to think it leads any where else but to destruction.